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07/28/2011

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

## 1-12. (Canceled)

13. (**Currently Amended**) A method for the treatment of a pathology affecting internal tissues of an eye selected from the group consisting of ~~seelra, ciliary bodies, crystalline lens,~~ retinal ganglion cells retina[[,]] and optic nerve, ~~vitreous body, and choroidea,~~ comprising:

(1) identifying a subject in need of treatment of the pathology; and

(2) topically applying a composition comprising from 200 to 500 µg/ml of nerve growth factor over an ocular surface of the subject to cause an increase in the amount of nerve growth factor in retinal ganglion cells and optic nerve, wherein an effective amount of ~~contacting the tissues with~~ the nerve growth factor is provided to said tissues to treat the pathology, and wherein the pathology is selected from the group consisting of: ~~cataract,~~ optic neuritis, glaucoma, maculopathy, retinitis pigmentosa, myopic retinopathy, and macular foramen, ~~uveitis, vitrectomy,~~ ~~ocular hypotonia, scleromalacia, perforating trauma of the sclera, and phthisis.~~

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the composition comprises the nerve growth factor in a pharmaceutically acceptable ophthalmic carrier and is in a form selected from the group consisting of solutions, suspensions, ointments, gels, or creams.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the composition is in a form selected from the group consisting of an ocular erodible insert, a polymeric membrane reservoir system to be placed in the conjunctival sac, or in combination with a local bandage and a therapeutic contact lens.

## 16-17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the composition is in the form of an ophthalmic solution.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the ophthalmic solution contains from 200-250 µg/ml of nerve growth factor.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein the nerve growth factor is of murine or human origin, or is a human recombinant nerve growth factor.

21-32. (Canceled)

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the pathology is a pathology affecting the optic nerve.

34. (**Currently Amended**) The method of claim 13, wherein the pathology is a pathology affecting the ~~retina~~ retinal ganglion cells.

35-36. (Canceled)

37. (**New**) A method for the treatment of a pathology affecting internal tissues of an eye selected from the group consisting of retinal ganglion cells and optic nerve comprising:

topically applying a composition comprising from 200 to 500 µg/ml of nerve growth factor over an ocular surface of the subject to cause an increase in the amount of nerve growth factor in the retinal ganglion cells and optic nerve,

wherein an effective amount of the nerve growth factor is provided to said tissues to treat the pathology, and

wherein the patient has been previously diagnosed with a pathology is selected from the group consisting of: optic neuritis, glaucoma, maculopathy, retinitis pigmentosa, myopic retinopathy, and macular foramen.